

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047710

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, HU

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PERSONNEL CEILING

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REF: BUDAPEST 518

1. PRESENT EMBASSY PERSONNEL CEILING OF 46 CAME INTO EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 30, 1973, DATE OF HUNGARIAN MFA REPLY TO EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 557. THIS CEILING IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING CONSULATE GENERAL AND COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN NY.

2. A SEARCH OF COLLECTIVE MEMORIES HERE REVEALS THAT THE PERSONNEL CEILING WAS IMPOSED BY THE GOH AFTER THE EVENTS OF 1956 IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE MSG. AMBASSADOR PUHAN IN MID-1969 NEGOTIATED A RAISE OF THE CEILING TO 31. STATE 150529 OF 1973 SUGGESTED EMBASSY PROPOSE RAISING CEILING TO 35 TO ACCOUNT FOR TEACHERS AND PLANNED STAFF INCREASES. AS REPORTED IN BUDAPEST 3162 (1973) NAGY PROPOSED INCREASE OF 15 TO ACCOMMODATE HUNGARIAN CONSULATES GENERAL IN NY AND CLEVELAND. THE EMBASSY WAS AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT PROPOSED CEILING OF 46 AND THIS WAS DONE IN NOTE 557.

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PAGE 02 STATE 047710

3. THE QUESTION OF HOW TO COUNT THE PERSONNEL CEILING HAS NEVER BEEN OFFICIALLY ADDRESSED TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS TO MFA OF EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC (FOR DIPLOMATIC LIST) AND NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL FILED IN LATE 1973, MFA INSISTED THAT THE TEACHERS BE INCLUDED IN LATTER LIST. THEY WERE THEN INCLUDED SEPARATELY AT END OF LIST. WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY EMBASSY PERSONNEL SHOWN ON THESE TWO LISTS REPORTED TO MFA COUNT AGAINST CEILING. SIMILAR REPORTS ARE MADE BY HUNGARIAN EMBASSY TO PROTOCOL (FOR BLUE AND WHITE LISTS), AND THESE HAVE SERVED TO COUNT HUNGARIAN CEILING.

4. AMBASSADOR PEDERSEN RAISED POSSIBILITY OF ABOLISHING CEILING WITH NAGY (BUDAPEST 3162-1973), BUT NAGY INDICATED THIS WOULD RAISE TOO MANY PROBLEMS WITH "OTHER AREAS OF GOVERNMENT."

5. COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED BEING POUCHED.

6. WE ARE STUDYING ADVISABILITY OF ELIMINATING PERSONNEL CEILING AND WILL ADVISE YOU. KISSINGER

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